

The monthly A*C*E

Serving the Free Radio community since 1982
ANARC member since 1983

January 2004

QSL
NO
SAMPLE
VOL. 2

MAD

Our
Price
\$1.75
Cdn/US



SCHMUCK
DATE
UTC
FREQ

JOHN T. ARTHUR

July 19 (UTC) 1992

03:00-03:45

74.5 kHz

At this moment, You should be with us, Feeling like we do, Like you
love to, But never will again!

from the desk of the Managing Editor

Ye Olde jta: ACEHdq@localnet.com
or: (585) 365-8870 (not collect)

Thank goodness. Christmas is over, and we won't have to listen to those dad-ratted seasonal songs for about another 10 months again. I don't know about you, but I get so sick of hearing "Chipmunks Roasting On An Open Fire" and "Wolfish Got Run Over By George Zeller" starting before even Thanksgiving has passed! And what's worse is the stores (and homes!) that start decorating prior to Halloween. I mean c'mon, gimme a break, willya?

Due to lack of time, Fred Moe has retired as editor of the station feature column, Random Transmissions. He brought us some in-depth interviews with station operators, culminating with his great column with Alan Maxwell of KIPM in the November issue. If you'd be interested in trying to fill his shoes, feel free to contact me at ACE Hdq.

We've had no feedback at all about filling the Clandestine editor's position. I have to wonder whether there's really no interest in that area or people just don't bother to make their feelings known. For the moment the position remains available, so contact Hdq if you're interested and have the time to write a column.

Be sure to check the expiration date following your name on your mailing label. If it reads 0401, you need to renew.

Onward..!

FRN THE FREE RADIO NETWORK
"Pirate Radio Invades the World Wide Web!"



- ✓ Audio Clips
- ✓ Photos
- ✓ QSLs
- ✓ The ACE
- ✓ Chat
- ✓ News
- ✓ The Grapevine
- ✓ Over 1000 Links

DIALOGS

January 2004

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(Next deadline for submissions: January 18, 2004)

LATE LOGS

James Bond Radio

- 12/18/03, 0034+, 6925U (MT-WI 131)

FROM ACROSS THE POND

Alfa Lima Radio (radio@alfalima.net)

- 11/30/03, 0622-0653, 6265A - mx - Techno. (WS-TN Poor)

Radio Space Shuttle (radiospaceshuttle@hotmail.com)

- 11/27/03, 0127-0134, 15810A - mx - Rock. ID flowed by mx, then fade out by 0134. (MT-WI Fair)

Radio Spaceman (komopdeband@hotmail.com)

- 12/21/03, 0033-0104, 6265A - mx - "Sex and Drugs and Rock'n'roll", "Rocket in my Pocket", "The Joker", "I am a Rock". OM with regular IDs. (RC-MA Fair)

NORTH/SOUTH AMERICAN LOGGINGS

Border Radio (FRN)

- 12/21/03, 0049-0113*, 6925U - mx - Border Radio song, Rock, Christmas music. ID of "You're listening to Border Radio!" Segment of the "Mean Farmer Show". (GZ-OH 242)
- 12/21/03, 0213-0231, 6955U - mx - Christmas Rock tunes. (WH-IL 154)
- 12/21/03, 0309, 6950U - mx - "I'm a Pirate". (WH-IL 144)

Captain Morgan (FRN)

- 11/28/03, 0144-0233, 6950A - mx - "King Tut". Mention of QSLs. (WS-TN Poor)

Iron Man Radio (Belfast)

- 11/21/03, 0324-0340*, 6925A - mx - Rock. Scruffy is our host, we have a traffic report from Crystal Cutter. (RD-PA Fair)

Old Turkey Radio (oldturkeyradio@yahoo.com)

- 11/29/03, 0249-0300, 6925U - hard to identify mode, WHYP and Old Turkey radio stepping on each other at the same time. (MT-WI Good)

Radio Cielo (Peru) (Unknown)

- 12/15/03, 1100-1124, 5627A – mx – Peruvian vocals. IDs between cuts, ID of “Estes es Radio Cielo” at 1122. Reports indicate this is a Pirate. (RD-FC Fair)

Radio Free Speech (Blue Ridge Summit)

- 12/01/03, 0056-0130*, 6950A – mx – parodies like “Rudolph the Red Nose Wino”. Parody advertisements for Bob’s Boy Restaurant, ID at 0106 of the “Holiday Special”. (MT-WI Fair)(RD-PA Fair)(WS-TN Good)
- 12/09/03, 2325-2351*, 6950A – the Holiday Special with parodies, tunes and ads for Pirate web sites and publications. Good audio. Sudden off. (RS-OH 555)(DB-OH Good)
- 12/14/03, 2252, 6950A – an Earl Pitts comedy routine. (WS-TN Fair)

Ragnar Radio (ragnarradio@yahoo.com)

- 11/23/03, 0110, 6925A – mx – The Carter Family. (WS-TN Poor)
- 11/29/03, 0105-0110, 6925A – ID. (WS-TN Fair)

Sunshine Radio (Unknown?)

- 12/14/03, 2108-2114, 6950A – continuous mx with YL ID of “This is Sunshine Radio” at 2112 and wishing everyone a Merry Christmas. (RD-FC Fair)

Sycko Radio (None)

- 12/14/03, 0318, 6950U – ID. (WS-TN Poor)

Take It Easy Radio (takeiteasyradio@yahoo.com)

- 12/21/03, 0601-0638, 6925U – mx – Kraft Music Hall w/Bing Crosby. Tunes included “White Christmas” and “Easter Bonnet”. Ad for War Bonds. (WH-IL 154)

The Voice Of Captain Ron Shortwave (captainron6955@hotmail.com)

- 11/24/03, 0020-0047*, 6925U – mx – Rock. Lots of talk and some IDs from the Captain. One subject of note was “radio therapy”. (GZ-OH 232)(WS-TN Fair)
- 12/15/03, 0108-0114, 6950U – mx – Rock. Captain Ron battles the infamous Cardboard Box. (RD-FC Good)

Undercover Radio (undercoverradio@hotmail.com)

- 11/30/03, 0040-0055+, 6925U – the estimable Mister Burroughs with a monologue on the nature of space and time. (MT-WI Good)
- 12/01/03, 0011-0213+, 6925U – a marathon broadcast interspersed with some dead air. Dramatic readings by Bill Burroughs, surrealism is the theme for the night, mention of insane people with weapons of mass destruction. (GZ-OH 232)(RD-PA Fair)(WS-TN Good)

WHYP (Providence)

- 11/27/03, 0055-0117, 6952U. Vague talk, faded into QRN. (MT-WI Poor)(WH-IL 154)
- 11/29/03, 0055-0117, 6925U – mx – Rock. Cheech and Chong stuff. (WH-IL 143)
- 11/29/03, 0249-0300, 6925U – hard to identify mode, WHYP and Old Turkey radio stepping on each other at the same time. (MT-WI Good)
- 11/29/03, 2200-2314, 6925A – lots of Cheech and Chong skits including “Dave’s not Here”, “Basketball Jones” and “Sister Mary Elephant”. (GZ-OH 232)(WH-IL 143)(WS-TN Good)

WMPR (FRN)

- 11/29/03, 0306+, 6955A – mx – Dance. (MT-WI Poor)
- 12/14/03, 2320-0001*, 6955A – mx – Christmas themed including instrumental version of “The Twelve Days of Christmas”. ID at 2349. (WS-TN Good)(RD-FC Fair)

TENTATIVE/UNIDENTIFIED

Timber Radio?

- 12/01/03, 0135-0216, 6950U – mx – Blues, “California Dreamin’”, “Yoda”. IDs as “Timber, Timber, Timber...” or something sounding like it. (WS-TN Good)
- 12/07/03, 2326-2328, 6950A – more of the indecipherable ID. (WS-TN Fair)

Unid

- 11/23/03, 0600, 6270A – Possible Euro Pirate. ID as “??? International”. (WS-TN Poor)
- 11/27/03, 2311-2335*, 6950U – mx – Christmas carols, “Tubular Bells”. Uncle Schleckstein? (MT-WI)(WS-TN Good)
- 11/28/03, 0014-0045*, 6950A – Amos and Andy show. Possibly Shadow Radio? (MT-WI Good)
- 11/28/03, 0158-0201, 6953A – mx – Motown. No ID. (MT-WI)
- 11/28/03, 0250-0256, 6950A – mx – singing tune to fadeout. (MT-WI)
- 12/01/03, 0130-0235, 6950A – mx – Blues – “I’m in the Mood for Love”, “Got my Eyes on You”. Later played “House of the Rising Sun”, “Soul Man”, Kinks and Donovan. ID noted but completely indecipherable. (MT-WI Good)(RD-PA Good)
- 12/06/03, 0246-0400*, 6950U – mx – “Stay Away From Dixie”. Roy Mercer phone skit, off w/“Star Spangled Banner”. (WS-TN Poor)
- 12/20/03, *2158-2232, 6925A – mx – Doors, other Rock. Some dead air, no definite ID, possibly Sunshine Radio? (GZ-OH 242)
- 12/21/03, 0050, 6925U – mx – Rock (WH-IL 154)
- 12/21/03, 0135, 6925U – mx – “Instant Karma”. (WH-IL 154)

QSL CONTRIBUTORS/PLEASE

Rich D’Angelo, 2216 Burkey Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610 (RD-PA)
 Rich D’Angelo, French Creek DXpedition, PA (RD-FC)
 Dave Balint, 2020 Springville Road, Wooster, OH 44691 (DB-OH)
 Ross Comeau, 16 Linwood Street, Andover, MA 01810 (RC-MA)
 William Hassig, 102 North Russell Street, Mount Prospect, IL 60056-2443 (WH-IL)
 Woody Smith, P.O. Box 52823, Knoxville, TN 37950 (WS-TN)
 Ronnie Stroup, 9226 Hiner Road, Wooster, OH 44691 (RS-OH)
 Mark Taylor, 1114 Ellen Avenue, Madison, WI 53716 (MT-WI)
 George Zeller, 3492 West 123rd Street, Cleveland, OH 44111 (GZ-OH)

TEN (and TWENTY) YEARS AFTER...

January 1984: ACE was 24 pages. DiaLogs was 6 pages, including 2 NAM MW, 4 NAM FM, 17 NAM SW, 2 Euros, and 9 clandestines reported by 18 contributors.

January 1994: ACE was 32 pages with Radio Gumby on the cover. DiaLogs was 11 pages, including 1 NAM MW (RFM), 41 NAM SW, 1 Euro, and 52 (over 2 pages unIDs reported by 19 contributors.

RAMBLINGS

Ugh! What a year it's been – hopefully 2004 will be a better one than 2003 was. At least for me...

Slightly fewer contributors this time around, notably no Al Fansome, but even so we didn't do too badly. Thanks guys, for your taking the time to send in stuff - this is greatly appreciated!

Here's a thought for the rest of the readership – I, John and a few other folks spend a lot of time producing this publication – how about even just a couple of you that have never sent in reports before try to do so for the next newsletter? We have this small core of faithful folks who take the time and trouble to send in stuff but I know that even they would like to see reports from someone other than themselves for a change. C'mon, if it's email it'll cost you nothing apart from a little time – if it's snail mail it'll cost you all of 37 cents as well as that time- just this once, even, let us know that there actually are other members of the club and that they do listen to their radios.

Lessee, now, what's been going on? Yours truly finally managed to get it up – yup, that's right – a 75 foot random length wire terminated with a Magnetic Longwire Balun, all fed into a Stridsberg 8-port HF multicoupler (to feed all those radios!) There's something in the area that puts out broadband noise (I gotta get the portable out and track it down) but, even so, it didn't stop me from logging Undercover Radio for the first time. Noise or not, I'm just happy (as a guy who now lives in rented property once more) to have been able to get a decent piece of wire up outside for my Shortwave Jones!

Now all I need is time to listen 'cause most of my available listening time goes into producing this column instead! One of life's little ironies, that.

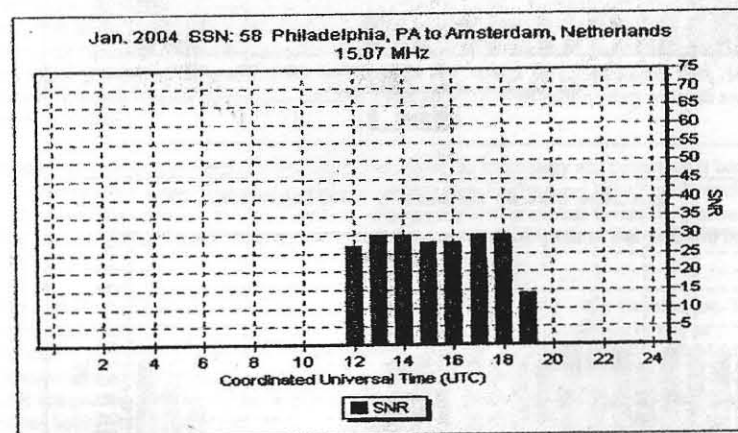
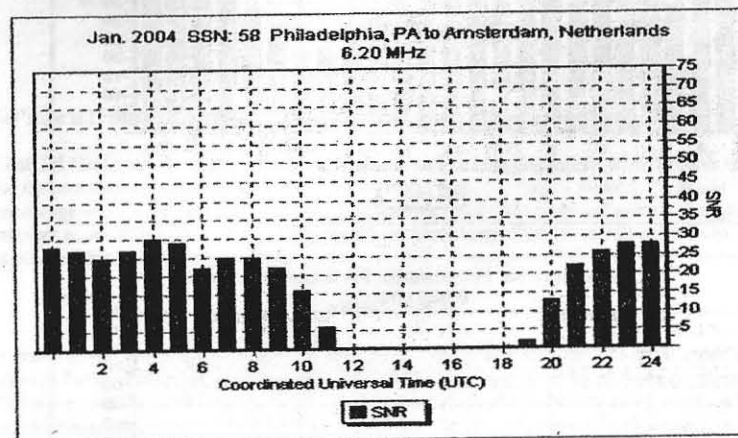
Well, by the time you get this fine missive Christmas will have come and gone, I hope you'll have had some improved listening for that holiday. New Year's will probably still be to come and that's often a good time for Pirate activity. If you're not out First-Nighting or lying in a gutter somewhere, drunk, you might want to fire up the radio and see what can be heard. I hope to do so.

STATISTICS

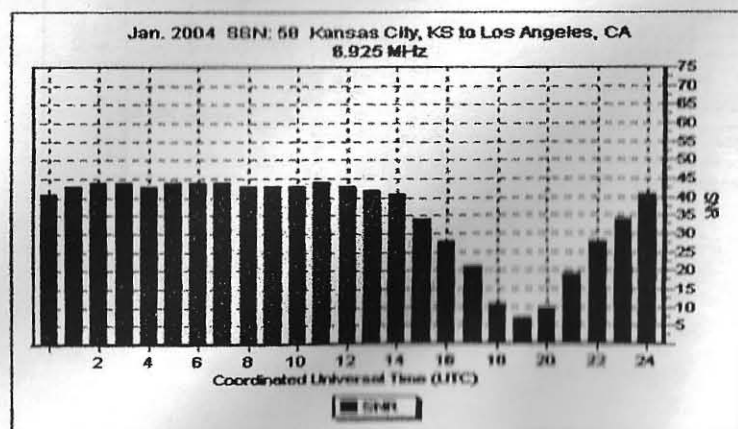
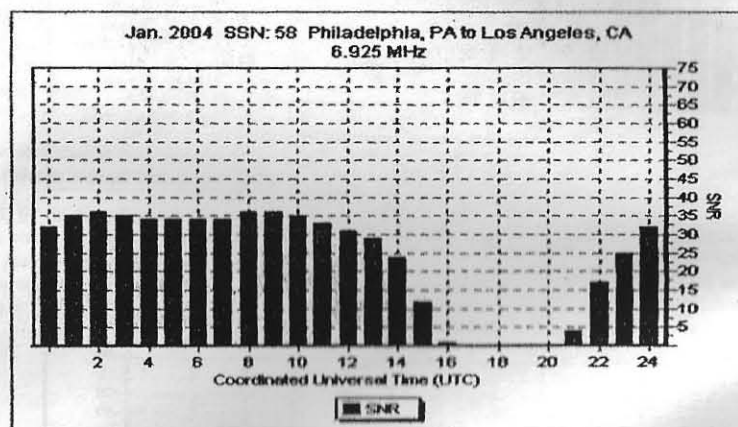
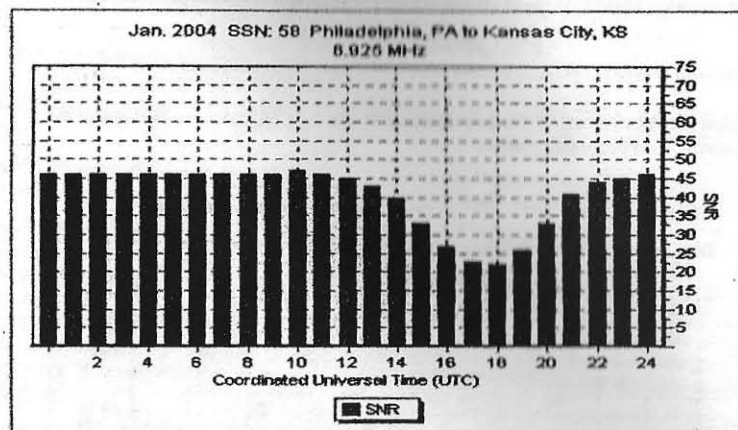
Nope, not this month – I have lots to do before Christmas Eve!

PROPAGATION

Okay, the first set of two charts are for propagation between the East Coast and Holland on the two most heavily used Pirate frequencies:



The following three are the usual set for the USA on 6.925 Mhz.



Veried Response

Ye Olde Jta
PO Box 1
Belfast, NY 14711

VeriedResponse@localnet.com

January 2004

Let's see if I remember how to do this... It's been a while, you know.

First, I'd like to extend a huge **Thanks** to Chris Lobdell for keeping the columnist's chair warm for the past two-and-one-half years (geez, has it really been that long?). Second, I'd like to encourage you (all of you) to submit your QSL reports along with news and notes that might be relevant to our little corner of the hobby for use in this column. Club news will continue to appear inside the front cover, of course.

what's news

As most of you know, the Federal Communications Commission is going full-speed ahead with plans to further deregulate enough to cram BPL (broadband via power lines) down our throats. The power utilities are thrilled with what they see as a chance to make even more money without any additional investment, and FCC Chairman Mike Powell simply gushes with admiration for the plan.

Unfortunately, as everyone else has already realized, it will be the end of the radio hobby as we know it. BPL, as envisioned, will place RF signals on unshielded power lines which are, as you and I know, pretty darned good antennas (there's plenty of radiation from them already!). The American Radio Relay League has filed protests – but **only** about the amateur bands, of course. The North American SW Association has also filed negative comments on the docket. Harold Ort, editor of Popular Communications, has taken the FCC to task for such a foolish plan. And since BPL would blanket frequencies between 2 and 80 MHz, even public safety officials are rightly concerned.

Several other countries (Japan, for one) have considered the technology and prohibited it because of the interference it would cause. Limited-area tests in New England and New York have shown serious interference issues, as well. However, Chairman Powell continues to sing the praises of this "new technology" and is looking for ways to ease Part 15 limitations so that BPL will be a shoe-in.

This is an obvious conflict of interest on the part of Mr Powell and the entire Commission. They make it clear that BPL would benefit the utilities, but how it would benefit you or me, as consumers, is not being addressed. Choice? Hardly. We already have the choice to pay about \$40 per month for a broadband connection, if we want it; are the power utilities going to undercut the cable companies? Are they going to offer it for free? Can you stop laughing? I'm afraid that serious hobbyists are already crying...

the ACE Awards Program

Looking for a way to spiff up your shack – or just to cover those unsightly holes in your wall? You can do it by participating in the ACE Awards Program. By sending a list of your pirate and/or clandestine QSLs and a buck or two, you can receive professionally printed, suitable for framing certificates pronouncing your accomplishments. The A*C*E offers Awards for number of North American pirates, number of Foreign pirates, number of countries, and number of clandestine stations verified. Complete rules and information are available on request from me

by either snail-mail or email. Support your Club and put something nice in your shack at the same time!

under the door
the QSL report

Ross Comeau snagged a no data email response from Shadow Radio in one day.

Leezo (Mr DialLogs) Reynolds reports a QSL, info sheet and CD from Undercover Radio signed by the good Dr. Benway in 4 days for an email report. He also reports that he's still digging our from under the 26 inches of snow that fell in early December. (*better you than me! Hope your wire stayed up. jta*)

Woody Smith got a full data QSL from Radio Alfa Lima International in two weeks for \$1.

Zit for this month. Let's see **your** name here next month. 73FR!



Covert Comms
By: Chris Smolinski

This month we'll discuss the general habits of numbers stations, with some tips on how to tune them in and perhaps discover new transmissions.

To begin with, we're at a disadvantage since the folks behind numbers stations don't really want us tuning them in. There are no officially published schedules, as with normal shortwave broadcast stations, so it's much like tuning into pirates, you need to know where and when to listen.

Spy numbers stations generally avoid the broadcast and ham bands, and stick to out of the way places in the utility bands. So one option is just tuning around these bands, looking for something out of the ordinary. That implies that you have a way of determining what is out of the ordinary, and what to expect. The only way to do this is to spend the time monitoring these bands, becoming familiar with what stations should be there.

Voice numbers stations of course stick out like a sore thumb - a voice reading four or five digit numbers is generally not your typical utility station. CW numbers stations are a bit more difficult to spot, since you have to listen for a while to determine what is being sent. Also, some legitimate CW station send transmissions very similar to numbers stations, usually things like lists of traffic for marine stations, etc.

Most spy numbers transmissions begin on the hour. In the past, when transmissions were almost always in AM, carriers could be detected several minutes before the hour. It became common practice to search around looking for these "open carriers", and then wait until the top of the hour to see if a numbers transmission appeared. Today, many numbers stations use SSB, so this is less likely to be effective. Still, the top of the hour is an excellent time to be checking around for new transmissions.

Not all transmissions are in English of course, so it is wise to learn a minimal amount of various foreign languages - at least the numbers zero through nine! In addition to English, Spanish, German, Russian and other Slavic languages are commonly heard. French as a rule is never used, with only a handful of rare exceptions in the past.

Some stations keep to very well defined schedules, the Lincolnshire Poacher and Cherry Ripe, both operated by the UK, come to mind. These schedules rarely change over years. The Cuban Atencion stations keep fairly regular schedules, only changing slots every few months.

On the other hand, most of the Russian operated stations keep regular weekly schedules, but change the frequency each week. So you know when to listen to them, just not where! Some searching will usually turn up the correct frequency, if propagation conditions are favorable.

A tape recorder, or audio recording software, is always handy. That way, you can go back and listen to stations heard under poor conditions, and send the recordings to others to possibly ID. There are many such programs for Windows, and Macintosh users may wish to look here: <http://www.blackcatsystems.com/software/audiocorder.html>

Joining up with other spy numbers enthusiasts is always the best way to keep up to date with what is happening in the numbers scene, and getting the latest tips and schedules.

Be sure to join the Spooks list, to keep up to date on all the latest spy numbers activity. Visit <http://mailman.qh.net/mailman/listinfo/spooks> for details.

Also be sure to visit <http://www.spynumbers.com/> and take a look at the loggings database, we have over 50,000 spy numbers loggings online. You can enter your own loggings, or do searches of the database, it's a great tool to help find transmissions and schedules.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at info@spynumbers.com with any suggestions for future columns.

73
Chris

Chris Smolinski
Black Cat Systems
<http://www.blackcatsystems.com>

the ASSOCIATION of CLANDESTINE radio ENTHUSIASTS

PO Box 1, Belfast, New York 14711-0001

The A*C*E is an association of individuals who find pirate, clandestine and covert communications an interesting part of their radio listening hobby. The primary existence of the club revolves around the publication of a monthly bulletin, The A*C*E. The bulletin reports on pirate, clandestine, covert and other unexplained broadcasts. Also, the readers are provided with other available material concerning motives, explanations and the theories behind these various broadcasts and broadcasters. The ACE as an organization, does not encourage, support or condone any illegal activity; we simply seek to understand the nature and reasoning behind such broadcasts. If your interests include listening to pirate radio stations, clandestine broadcasts and covert communications, The A*C*E is for you!!

All subscriptions, renewals, and queries regarding subscriptions should be sent to the above club address. Contributions for each editor should be sent to their own given addresses.

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